GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:528
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the deficiencies listed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board report prepared in 1995 regarding safety measures at the nuclear installations in the country;

(b) the action taken on the report;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the present status of safety system of the nuclear installations in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

(SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.528 FOR ANSWE 3/5/2000 REGARDING SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS BY SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

(a) During 1995, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) prepared a report on the safety status of installations of the Department of Atomic Energy(DAE). This report detailed the evaluations and safety upgradations which are required in the installations of the Department of Atomic Energy. The report was based on the proceedings and recommendations of various Committees over the past decade as well as on the reports of other safety studies carried out from time to time by the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPCIL) and DAE.

The areas of possible safety upgradations identified in the document include desirable improvements and modifications in the emergency core-cooling systems and reactors, further evaluations and in-depth inspection of zircalloy pressure tubes in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) for their integrity, improvements whichcould further reduce the collective radiation exposure to occupational workers, means to lower the potential for leakage from radioactive waste management systems, the evaluation of structural response to earthquake forces in some of the facilities, the preventive measures related to fire safety and flooding. A total of 134 such issues were listed in the report.

(b) AERB and the concerned DAE installations had jointly prepared corrective actions for each of the items identified. The progress in the implementation of the action plans is being continuously monitored by AERB. Of the 134 issues, 90 were closed after completion of agreed action plans, 23 issues which are of continuous nature are being followed up by the Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP). The remaining 21 issues are being followed by a dedicated cell set up in the AERB. None of the 21 issues warrant restrictive action on any nuclear installations.

Out of the 21 safety issues which are being followed up, one item related to modification and updating of the off-site emergency preparedness manual in the nuclear power stations has been completed. Out of the remaining 20, there is significant progress in the following two items.

(i) The training simulator at the Kaiga Generating Station has been installed. Operators have started training in the simulator.

(ii) The rod Worth Minimiser(RWM)has been installed, commissioned and is in operation in Unit#2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station. The same is being installed at Unit#1 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, in line with the general practices, safety upgradation is a continuous process.

(d) Does not arise.